# NOTE XVI.

# DESCRIPTION OF A NEW GOLIATHID FROM THE CAMEROONS.

BY

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*Goliathinus aureo-sparsus* v. d. Poll.

♀. *Brunneo-niger, nitidus; plaga basalis prothoracis, scutellum elytraque (humeri excepti) tomento brunneo-olivaceo obtecta. Prothorax lateraliter margine angusta et ab angulis anticis linea obliqua, scutellum lateraliter vitta lata, elytra omnino maculis et atomis (quae maculae ad margines majores) aureis ornata. Caput scabrose reticulato-punctatum; clypeus in medio reflexus et nonnihil truncatus, lateraliter gradatim rotundatus. Prothorax antice in tuberculum validum productus, lateribus fere in medio angulariter dilatatis, lobo postico ante scutellum truncato; postice sat convexus, antice multo reflexus et in medio late sed haud profunde excavatus, in depressione et ad margines laterales fortiter strigoso-punctatus, supra et ad basin punctis grossis sparsim instructus. Scutellum elongato-triangulare, apice obtuso. Elytra gradatim angustata, ad apicem rotundato-truncata, minutissime punctata, costis suturalibus ab medio sat elevatis. Pygidium dense subtiliterque rugosum, rufo-pilosum. Subtus, latera sternorum abdominisque et segmenta duo ultima tota dense strigoso-punctata, rufo-pilosa. Processus mesosternalis obtuse productus. Femora tibiaeque fortiter punctatae; tibiae anticae*

*extus in dentes duos validos acutos productae, tibiae intermediae et posticae intus longe denseque nigro-pilosae.*

Long. 50 mm., lat. 25 mm.

*Habitat:* Barombi, Cameroons (W. Africa).

Nitid black with brownish and olivaceous shades; the elytra, with exception of the glabrous shoulders, and the scutellum clothed with a brownish olivaceous tomentum, interrupted on the elytra by numerous small, partly punctiform golden spots, these spots are largest along the outer-margins and almost absent around the scutellum, the depressed sides of the scutellum are entirely occupied by a golden stripe. The prothorax also shows a tomentose patch just in face of the scutellum, its extension is likely to be very variable, in this specimen it emits a tomentose line forwards and there are on each side traces of an other patch. Moreover the thorax is ornated with a golden line just along the lateral margins (broadly interrupted in our specimen) and an other oblique discal line originating at the front angles, where it is confluent with the marginal line, and extending in an oblique direction outwards up to about the middle; in our exponent this line is also largely interrupted, its terminus being only indicated by a punctiform spot, higher on in the prolongation of the line.

Head very strongly and roughly punctured; sides of the clypeus gently rounded towards the front margin, which is rather strongly elevated and truncated in a slightly curved line. The reflexed front part finely and densely punctured.

Prothorax moderately convex, the anterior half strongly reflexed and broadly but not very deeply excavated in the middle, the lateral margins with a distinct narrow rim; the front margin deeply bisinuate, much produced in the middle, forming a large pointed glabrous tubercle, the sides angularly dilated about the middle and narrowed towards the base and the front (much more strongly towards the latter) in almost straight lines, the basal lobe strongly produced over the scutellum; the upper basal portion distantly punctured, the punctures almost absent in the centre and becoming larger and more numerous near the sides, which, as well as the reflexed front portion and the median excavation, are very closely, confluently and roughly punctured and strigose.

Scutellum elongate-triangular, rounded at the tip.

Elytra gradually slightly narrowed towards the tip, where they are broadly rounded and truncated, the sutural costae rather strongly elevated behind the middle; closely but very minutely punctured all over.

Pygidium opaque, finely but very thickly rugosely punctured, slightly longitudinally impressed in the middle, clothed with long soft brownish hairs.

Underneath with the sides of the sterna and abdominal segments as well as the whole of the two ultimate segments finely strigosely punctured and clothed with a short brownish pile; the median portion of the breast with a few small remote punctures and in the middle with a deeply impressed strigiform pit which is prolonged forwards on the mesosternal process in a fine line; the mesosternal process produced and obtusely pointed. Legs deeply punctured, the outerside of the intermediate and hinder tibiae finely rugose, with a small tooth about the middle, the innerside of the same provided with a long and dense fringe of blackish hairs, the front tibiae with two large and acute lateral spines before the equally strongly and sharply produced terminal edge.

As for the velvety vesture of its elytra this beautiful species is allied to *G. Fornasinius* Bert., however its colour and markings as well as the structure of head and thorax are very different, the outline of both the latter being much more in accordance with those of *G. Higginsi* Westw.

In the Bulletin entomologique of the Soc. Ent. de France, Séance du 10 août 1887, p. cxxxv, mention is made of a ♀ specimen of a new Goliathid from the San-Benito, which Mr. Künckel d'Herculais intended to describe and figure in the »Annales" under the name of *Goliathinus Guirali.* As the San-Benito River is close to the locality where my new species was taken, it is not impossible that Mr. Künckel's species will prove to be identical with my *aureo-sparsus*, but I have been unable to detect any published description or diagnosis of his *G. Guirali.*

I have described this species under the generic title of *Goliathinus* and not under that of *Fornasinius* used by von Harold and Bates. Von Harold's views of the priority should be quite correct if Bertoloni only had proposed a generic name without changing the specific name, but to raise a specific name to the rank of a generic one with addition of a new specific name, I consider inadmissible. Whilst generic names are accepted or rejected according to the personal views of different authors, the specific name is the only stable base we have, therefore no such name once published ought to be changed without the utmost necessity. If the partisans of absolute priority should like to retain in this case the generic name proposed by Bertoloni, they must retain also the original specific name and call the insect *Fornasinius Fornasinii* Bert.

A splendid series of cacographic and erroneous quotations concerning this subject, may be found in Bergé's Enumération des Cétonides décrits depuis la publication du Catalogue de MM. Gemminger & de Harold.